

Appl. No. 09/585,820
Amdt. Dated November 4, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A method of analyzing blood in a reverse test, comprising:

- (a) admixing a sample of blood with reagent red blood cells bearing A antigen and with reagent red blood cells bearing B antigen wherein such admixing is performed in a single [[column]] test;
- (b) allowing the admixture to agglutinate;
- (c) subjecting the admixture to visual or automated computerized imaging analysis; and
- (d) analyzing the visual or automated computerized imaging analysis to determine ABO reverse type.

Claims 17-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 16 wherein one group of reagent red blood cells of step (a) are stained.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 29 wherein the column agglutination technology is a column agglutination test reaction and separation vessel in cassette form.

Claim 23 (original): The method of Claim 22 wherein an automated computerized imaging system is employed to interpret an agglutination result.

Claims 24-28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (Currently amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the single test [[subjected to visual or automated computerized imaging analysis is selected from the group]] means for carrying out the test

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[[consisting]] consists of tube, microplate, slide, slide platform and column agglutination technology.

Claim 30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (Currently amended) A method of simultaneous [[blood]] ABO antibody testing of a blood sample using two cell populations, comprising:

- (a) admixing a sample of blood with a first group of reagent red blood cells bearing a first antigen and a second group of reagent red blood cells bearing a second antigen, wherein such admixing is performed in a single [[column]] test;
- (b) allowing the admixture to agglutinate;
- (c) subjecting the admixture to visual or automated computerized imaging analysis; and
- (d) analyzing the visual or automated computerized imaging analysis to determine [[reverse]] ABO type.

Claim 32 (Previously presented) The method of claim 31 wherein one group of reagent red blood cells of step (a) are stained.

Claim 33 (Currently amended) The method of claim 32 wherein the single test [[subjected to visual or automated computerized imaging analysis is selected from the group]] means for carrying out the test [[consisting]] consists of tube, microplate, slide, slide platform and column agglutination technology.

Claim 34 (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the column agglutination technology is a column agglutination test reaction and separation vessel in cassette form.

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Claim 35 (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein an automated computerized imaging system is employed to interpret an agglutination result.

Claim 36 (Currently amended) A method of performing an antibody test on a sample of blood [[in a single column]] comprising:

- (a) admixing a sample of blood with reagent red blood cells bearing a first antigen and reagent red blood cells bearing a second antigen, wherein one of the populations of red blood cells is [[stained]] labeled, wherein such admixing is performed in a single test;
- (b) allowing the admixture to agglutinate;
- (c) subjecting the admixture to visual or automated computerized imaging analysis; and
- (d) detecting and identifying the antibody.

Claim 37 (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the sample of blood is serum or plasma.

Claim 38 (Previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein one group of reagent red blood cells of step (a) are stained.

Claim 39 (Currently amended) The method of claim 38 wherein the single test [[subjected to visual or automated computerized imaging analysis is selected from the group]] means for carrying out the test [[consisting]] consists of tube, microplate, slide, slide platform and column agglutination technology.

Claim 40 (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the column agglutination technology is a column agglutination test reaction and separation vessel in cassette form.

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Claim 41 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 40 wherein an automated computerized imaging system is employed to interpret an agglutination result.

Claim 42 (Currently amended) A blood analysis kit for performing an antibody test in a single test comprising:

- (a) a container having therein a first population of reagent red blood cells bearing a first antigen and a second population of reagent red blood cells bearing a second antigen, wherein one of the populations of reagent red blood cells is stained;
- (b) reaction means for carrying out the antibody test; and
- (c) instructions for performing the antibody test as a single test, in order to detect and identify an antibody which is the subject of the antibody test, wherein the column is subjected to visual or automated computerized imaging analysis.

Claim 43 (Previously presented) The kit of claim 42 wherein the reagent red blood cells are selected from the group consisting of groups A1, A2, B, O, D, C, E, c, e, M, N, S, s, P1, Lea, Leb, K, k, Jsa, Fya, Fyb, Jka, Jkb, Lua, and Lub.

Claim 44 (Previously presented) The kit of claim 42 wherein the reaction means for carrying out the antibody test is selected from the group consisting of tube, microplate, slide, slide platform and column agglutination technology.

Claim 45 (Previously presented) The kit of claim 44 wherein the reaction means of carrying out the antibody test is a column agglutination test reaction vessel.

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Claim 46 (Currently amended) A blood analysis kit for performing a reverse ABO blood type in a single [[column]] test comprising:

- (a) a container having therein a first population of reagent red blood cells bearing group A antigen and a second population of reagent red blood cells bearing B antigen, wherein one of the populations of reagent red blood cells is stained;
- (b) reaction means for carrying out the reverse ABO blood type; and
- (c) instructions for performing the reverse ABO blood type as a single test, wherein the [[column]] reaction is subjected to visual or automated computerized imaging analysis.

Claim 47 (Previously presented) The kit of claim 46 wherein the reaction means for performing the reverse ABO blood type is selected from the group consisting of tube, microplate, slide, slide platform and column agglutination technology.

Claim 48 (Previously presented) The kit of claim 47 wherein the reaction means for carrying out the reverse ABO blood type is a column agglutination test reaction vessel.

Claim 49 (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the sample of blood is serum or plasma.

Claim 50 (Canceled)

Claim 51 (Previously presented) The method of claim 31 wherein the sample of blood is serum or plasma.